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EDITORIAL

Printer's Strike Spreads

The disputants are still arguing whether it is a strike or a lockout, but all we know is that no work is being done by typesetters on The Christian Century and several hundred other magazines published in Chicago. The number of plants affected increases each day, and the dispute has spread to New York, Philadelphia and other cities. So we continue to do the best we can with this newsletter. How does it impress you? You'll have to admit one thing: Cover-to-cover reading doesn't require so much time!

Universal Military Training

UMT has little chance of passage at the current session of Congress, in spite of noise made in hearings by the American Legion. Other measures increasing the $11 billion military budget have the green light. This vast sum, doubling the amount proposed for foreign aid, gets approval almost without debate.

Southern Revolt

The southern revolt against the Democratic party because of Truman's civil rights proposals is dying down, and will probably disappear before election. But the President's move gives the Republicans the opportunity of a lifetime. They can now pass federal legislation against lynching, poll tax voting, segregation and discrimination and should be held responsible for what Congress does. All southern churchmen do not agree with the governors. See reports on page 295.

Western Union

Four of the five European nations which formed the new alliance are colonial powers. The people who are nurturing the synthetic war scare which is building up in Washington and London advocate an American guarantee to this military pact. They are fundamentally mistaken. Such a guarantee would rob us of all freedom to determine our own policy. It would commit us to the maintenance of the colonial status quo. The House should accept the European Recovery Program which the Senate has passed, and do it soon. The only way to stop Communism is to undercut the economic chaos on which it flourishes. War pacts produce wars, chaos, and more Communism.

Vatican Frightened

The extraordinary efforts which the Vatican is making to get out the Catholic vote in Italy reveals how impassioned are the fears of the hierarchy that Italy will go Communist on April 18. These fears are well grounded. The U.S. is doing its part by sending hundreds of shiploads of food. Meanwhile Congress debates the E.R.P. and the hierarchy's efforts may do more harm than good.

Amsterdam Needs Help

A letter addressed to you through The Christian Century reads in part: "We would like to suggest to your readers that the least, the very least, we here in the United States can do is to see to it that no appointed delegate to Amsterdam is kept at home for lack of funds, which might well happen in the case of delegates from some of the younger churches, and that nothing shall be detracted from the work of the World Assembly of Churches because there is not enough money. The American member churches have agreed to raise $106,800 toward the expense of Amsterdam. Less than half will come from the denominations. For the remainder the American committee must appeal to the local churches and to individuals who believe that God wills this assembly and will use it for the healing of his people." The letter is signed by George A. Buttrick, Harry Emerson Fosdick and Henry K. Sherrill. Checks should go to The World Assembly of Churches Fund, 297 Fourth Ave., New York 10. We urgently endorse this appeal.

Quintus Quiz: Farewell!

A cablegram from London says that Dr. Edward Shillito (76) died March 11. He was known to readers of The Christian Century as our British correspondent and as the genial author of the weekly column signed "Quintus Quiz." He was known to the editors of this paper as a warm and generous friend, as a great free church man and as a Christian scholar whose faith never faltered.

Supreme Court Bans Released Time

The principle of separation of church and state received strong and we hope decisive endorsement from the 8-1 decision of the Supreme Court outlawing the teaching of religion in public schools. It was handed down March 8 on the case arising in Champaign, Ill., where classes on religion are held in school buildings during school hours. Justice Black, the majority spokesman, said this practice "beyond all questioning" used tax-supported schools "to aid religious groups to spread their faith" and so "it falls squarely under the ban of the First Amendment." Denying that this ruling is hostile to religion, he said: "The First Amendment rests upon the premise that both religion and government can best work to achieve their lofty aims if each is left free from the other within its respective sphere." Any use by religious groups, said the decision, of "the state's compulsory public school machinery . . . is not separation of church and state." In a separate concurring statement, Justice Frankfurter denied that the ruling applies to all released time programs. Justice Reed dissented; he said that it went too far.

The court's decision constitutes a resounding defeat for the efforts of the Roman Catholic Church to secure tax funds to support its schools. It also corrects the error into which Protestantism has been drifting in its weekday religious education. The following consequences of this epochal decision may be expected: (1) The 40% of the 3,000 released time systems which hold classes in public schools will have to leave the schools. (2) Further rulings will have to be obtained concerning classes held outside schools on school time. The decision is not clear on this point. (3) The Taft bill (S472) for federal aid to education will have to be amended by deleting the section which permits federal aid to sectarian schools if state laws allow it. (4) The use of tax funds for aid to sectarian higher education will have to stop. (5) Payment of public funds to the Roman Catholic Church for services of members of religious orders as public school teachers is outlawed, and so are federal grants to Catholic missions to Indians. (6) The cause championed by Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State is strengthened immensely, but the organization will have to work to see that the Supreme Court's ruling is enforced. (7) Meanwhile the Protestant churches are obliged, in the words of Roy G. Ross of the International Council of Religious Education, to (a) seek clarification of the law, (b) help weekday systems to conform to the law, and (c) find other and more effective ways to combat increasing secularism.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

The Growth of Physical Science. By Sir James Jeans. Macmillan, $4.00. Physics, chemistry, mathematics and astronomy are the sciences which Sir James traces from their beginnings to now. The book shows the development of scientific ideas, with full detail in treating the great turning points of the mind. Written for persons not technically trained. A felicitous style makes it as easy to read as such a book can be.

The English Country Parson. By William Addison. Macmillan, $3.75. Anecdotes and descriptions of various types of rural clergy through the past four centuries, with specific introduction to many colorful individuals, make this lively reading. Under this episodic material lies a sound body of British social and ecclesiastical history.

A Guide to Confident Living. By Norman Vincent Peale. Prentice-Hall, $2.75. Helpful to pastoral counselors and to those who need counsel. Psychiatrists who think they can ignore religion as a medicine for sick minds will learn something to their advantage by reading this.

Methodism. Edited by William K. Anderson. Methodist Pub. House, $2.00. Methodist history, doctrine, polity, interests and attitudes. Written by 25 able men, many of whom are scholars widely recognized outside of Methodism.

The Yellow Robe. By Robert Payne. Dodd, Mead, $3.00. A rich-textured fictional treatment of the life of Gautama Buddha, done in a reverent spirit and with great intelligence.

And Let Us Reason Together. Edited by Elise D. Gordon. Beacon Press, $3.00. Daily meditations selected from the writings of Old South Church's great preacher, George A. Gordon.

NEWS OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLD

The churches play a part in the southwide ferment on the civil rights issue:

Richmond, Va.--In precedent-shattering suggestions, the Virginia council of churches' executive committee lists steps behind which it believes Christian sentiment should rally: equal opportunities for Negroes in voting, employment, education, military service, public health, hospital and welfare benefits; on jury panels, police forces and such agencies as school boards. The program, recommended for study by religious and civic groups, also calls for an end to segregation on public carriers and in religious gatherings.--F. W. Burnham.

Oklahoma City--Breaking a 20-year tradition of non-segregation, the Young Democrats of Oklahoma at a state convention turned away all Negroes. In an address to the Oklahoma University chapter of the American Association of University Professors, Dean Snyder of the graduate school denounced the exclusion of Negroes from that school. At another in a series of interfaith, interracial dinners at the Oklahoma City "Y," Pastor Ira E. Williams of Epworth Methodist Church, a "deep southerner," told of his "conversion" from inherited racial prejudice.--H. H. Lindeman.

Atlanta--As the result of a state supreme court decision, the state Democratic committee representing the "Talmadge faction" (heretofore unrecognized by the national committee) is back in the saddle. Herman Talmadge, son of the late Eugene, will be among probably eight candidates for governor. Another will be Joseph A. Rabun, ousted last year as pastor of the Atlanta Baptist church attended by the Talmadges. Campus newspapers at Emory and Georgia universities have come out for admission of qualified Negroes to at least some graduate and professional schools.--Phillip J. McLean.

Memphis--The Mississippi Democratic committee has projected a nationwide organization to combat President Truman's "effort to rob the states of their remaining sovereignty." Earlier, self-appointed delegates met in convention to proclaim their resistance to the President, the party and any progress in race relations. A motion by C. G. Hamilton, Episcopal rector and former state legislator, to permit discussion on the resolutions was defeated. Southern governors have met at Nashville and at Tallahassee to plan regional professional schools for Negroes. They propose to use Meharry Medical College for Negroes at Nashville.--Marshall Wingfield.

Chapel Hill, N. C.--Two South Carolina county Democratic committees say they must leave the national party. North Carolina Democrats are more cautious. The Negro farm agent for one of North Carolina's largest rural counties reports Negro farm ownership doubled, 4-H membership tripled, since 1940. The Winston-Salem presbytery has named John R. Cunningham and C. H. Williams as its commissioners to the 1948 Presbyterian, U. S., General Assembly. Dr. Cunningham is president of Davidson College and moderator of the assembly; Mr. Williams, a Negro pastor.--Henry G. Ruark.

Huntington, W. Va.--The lecture by Richard McKinney, Negro educator, at Berea College is described by its sponsor, the American Friends Service Committee, as

marking the first time a white southern college has welcomed a Negro lecturer. The Louisville branch of the N.A.A.C.P. will seek admission of Negroes to the University of Kentucky law school at the opening of the spring term. If unsuccessful, it will press a court case. In Louisville, 52 professors of practical theology from 45 seminaries, 20 denominations, met to consider what message, motives and methods of evangelism are best for the present day.--J. M. Trimmer.

Washington, D. C.--The wartime Lutheran Service Center near the White House is to be remodeled into a center to house seven agencies serving national and local Lutheran groups. The ministerial union sponsored a unique radio workshop attended by 150 pastors and other religious workers and directed by national experts. (Reports tell of a similar project at Pottsville, Pa.--Ed.) The General Commission on Chaplains is within $2,000 of its goal of $100,000 for a national memorial building. The advanced school for Christian workers sponsored by the federation of churches and local seminaries and universities had 44 registrations. Another school is planned for next year.--L. Ralph Tabor.

New York City--A bill to incorporate a "Protestant Center" in the city has been introduced in the state legislature. One of its functions would be to bring together Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist and Congregational Christian headquarters. Fred G. Holloway, dean of Drew Theological Seminary, has been named to succeed retiring Arlo Ayres Brown as president of Drew University. Ralph H. Long, executive director of the National Lutheran Council, died suddenly Feb. 19.--J. Henry Carpenter.

Chicago--The Abraham Lincoln Friendship Train assembled here Feb. 12 by CROP (Christian Rural Overseas Program) had a greater valuation ($1,200,000) than any previous friendship train. Nebraska contributed 110 carloads, Illinois 86, Iowa 45, South Dakota 16, Kansas 13, North Dakota 10, Colorado 5, Wyoming 2, Ohio, Michigan and Indiana 6. The cargo was loaded aboard ship in Philadelphia the first week in March. Meanwhile, CROP's effort, sponsored by the churches through Church World Service and Lutheran World Relief, moves ahead. Money for supplies to supplement farmers' contributions in kind is welcome at headquarters, 308 Washington St., Chicago 6.

Sao Paulo, Brazil--Protestant legislators are being heard from. In the federal assembly, G. Silveira was responsible for a constitutional provision granting the right of conscientious objection. He worked for the legalization of divorce, but the Catholic hierarchy saw to defeat of the proposal. In Sao Paulo's legislature, O. Silveira led the fight which resulted in the banning of state and national lotteries. The local branch of the Christian Union of Students of Brazil (affiliated with W.C.S.F.) is sponsoring a course on the ecumenical movement.--J. Del Nero.

Edinburgh--Thanks to an increase of around $80,000 in contributions and a like sum in bequests, the Church of Scotland's Foreign Missions Committee closed its 1947 books with a small balance, but past debits must still be overcome. There had been danger that the work would have to be curtailed; once again "faith has conquered facts." At John Mackay's lectures in New College, "standing room only" was the rule. --Innes Logan.

CURRENT FEATURE FILMS

I Became a Criminal. A British gangster film! Suspenseful, unpleasant in tone. M

Nicholas Nickleby. Conveys effectively the Dickensian flavor of caricature and sentimentality. Crowded, leisurely, stylized. M,Y

The Voice of the Turtle. Altered to meet Production Code rules, play about the triumph of weekend romance over disillusionment is spontaneous, slight. M,Y

You Were Meant for Me. Even slighter, pleasant in its look back at 1929. M,Y

(From Independent Filmscores)